

Application Serial No. 10/035,863
Attorney Docket No. ZM0683/Implex-13

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims Listing

1. (Currently Amended) An instrument system for preparing a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies to receive a repair device, the instrument system comprising:

at least one distractor including:

a tapered body section for distracting the vertebral bodies in a manner that restores natural lordosis of the lumbar and cervical spines, the tapered body section formed by:

an end wall;

a first pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall; and

a second pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall;

and

a connector section opposite the body section, the connector section for coupling a handle to the distractor, the connector section including a detent element; and

a base portion connecting the tapered body section to the connector section;

wherein said tapered body section has a length that is substantially greater than a length of said base portion such that when said distractor is inserted between the adjacent vertebral bodies the first pair of opposing wall portions engage the adjacent vertebral bodies to obtain said natural lordosis.

2-14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) A distractor for use in a system that prepares a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies to receive a repair device, the distractor comprising:

a tapered body section for distracting the vertebral bodies in a manner that restores natural lordosis of the lumbar and cervical spines, the tapered body section formed by:

an end wall;

a first pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall; and

a second pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall;

and

a connector section opposite the body section, the connector section for coupling a handle to the distractor, the connector section including a detent element; and

a base portion connecting the tapered body section to the connector section;

wherein said tapered body section has a length that is substantially greater than a length of said base portion such that when said distractor is inserted between the adjacent vertebral bodies the first pair of opposing wall portions engage the adjacent vertebral bodies to obtain said natural lordosis.

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one distractor includes a longitudinal axis and at least one of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

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22. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one distractor includes a longitudinal axis and each of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the connector section includes a female coupling member.

26. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 25, wherein the female coupling member is formed by a T-shape slot.

27. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 26, wherein the T-shape slot defines inwardly facing locking flanges.

28. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 26, wherein the T-shape slot defines a surface, the surface including a bore for receiving a pilot pin formed at an end of the handle.

29. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, wherein the connector section includes a female coupling member.

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30. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 29, wherein the female coupling member is formed by a T-shape slot.

31. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 30, wherein the T-shape slot is defined by inwardly facing locking flanges.

32. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 31, wherein the T-shape slot is further defined by a surface, the surface including a bore for receiving a pilot pin formed at an end of the handle.

33. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, further including a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

34. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, further including a longitudinal axis, wherein each of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

35. (Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, further comprising indicia for indicating a dimension of the at least one distractor, the indicia provided by at least one of the walls of the first and second pairs of opposing walls.

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36. (Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, further comprising indicia for indicating a dimension of the distractor, the indicia provided by at least one of the walls of the first and second pairs of opposing walls.

37-49. (Not Entered)